

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for enabling a plurality of users to create, manage and trade a  
2 portfolio of assets/liabilities via a first plurality of communication links, one to each  
3 of the plurality of users, over which each of the plurality of users transmits to the  
4 system trading data regarding trades of a plurality of assets/liabilities that each of  
5 the plurality of users desires to make, said system comprising:

6 a) a processor communicating with the plurality of users via the first  
7 plurality of communication links, said processor receiving user identification  
8 information and trading data from each of the plurality of users, said processor  
9 [aggregating all buy orders and all sell orders for each asset/liability of the plurality  
10 of assets/liabilities included in the trading data from each of the plurality of users to  
11 obtain a single buy order and a single sell order for each asset/liability of the  
12 plurality of assets/liabilities represented in the trading data received from each of the  
13 plurality of users, and said processor transmitting the single buy order and the single  
14 sell order to a third party for execution; and]

15 b) a storage being coupled to the processor and storing the trading data from  
16 each of the plurality of users.

1 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said processor creates a  
2 percentage allocation of investment classes for each user based on allocation model  
3 input from said each user and transmits a resulting percentage allocation of  
4 investment classes to said each user.

1 3. The system according to claim 2, wherein said processor interacts with  
2 each user to determine a user portfolio that corresponds to the percentage allocation  
3 of investment classes for the user.

1 4. The system according to claim 1, further comprising an electronic  
2 payment mechanism being coupled to the processor and for coupling to a third party  
3 electronic payment system, transmitting a request for an electronic payment for each  
4 of the plurality of users to the third party payment system, and receiving, in response

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1           10. The system according to claim 9, wherein said user program further  
2 comprises a graphical user interface displaying a risk and a differential return of the  
3 entire user portfolio relative to a standard industry measurement to the user.

1 11. The system according to claim 10, wherein said user program further  
2 enables the user to adjust the percentage allocation of investment assets and the user  
3 portfolio.

1 12. The system according to claim 10, wherein said user program  
2 communicates said user identification information along with any trades of  
3 assets/liabilities to be executed to create or modify a user's portfolio to ensure a  
4 user's actual portfolio matches a user's desired portfolio to the processor as said  
5 trading data via one of the first plurality of communication links.

1 13. The system according to claim 10, wherein the system stores the user  
2 program in the storage and upon request by a new user transmits the program to the  
3 user.

1 14. The system according to claim 4, wherein the electronic payment  
2 mechanism electronically requests periodic payments from the third party payment  
3 system for each of the plurality of users.

1 15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the periodic payment  
2 comprises a monthly payment.

1 16. The system according to claim 1, wherein the trading data includes a  
2 fractional share for at least one of the assets/liabilities desired to be traded by at least  
3 one of the users of the plurality of users.

1 17. The system according to claim 9, wherein the user program maintains a  
2 tax basis for all of the assets/liabilities traded by the user.

1 18. The system according to claim 10, wherein the user program provides  
2 information to the user regarding voting rights of the assets/liabilities held by the  
3 user.

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25. The system according to claim 24, wherein the processor upon receipt of user identification information from a new user accesses the new user via one of the

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3 first plurality of communication links in accordance with the user identification  
4 specified by the new user to obtain payment information from the new user.

1 26. The system according to claim 25, wherein said one of the first plurality  
2 of communication links comprises a direct dial telephone connection.

1 27. The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first  
2 plurality of communication links includes a direct dial-up telephone connection  
3 initiated by one of the plurality of users.

1 28. The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first  
2 plurality of communication links includes a direct dial-up telephone connection to  
3 an intermediary server, which direct dial-up connection is initiated by one of the  
4 plurality of users, and a network connection from the intermediary server to the  
5 processor initiated by the intermediary server.

1 29. The system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first  
2 plurality of communication links includes a first direct dial-up telephone connection  
3 to an intermediary server, which first direct dial-up connection is initiated by one of  
4 the plurality of users, and a second direct dial-up connection to the processor, which  
5 said second direct dial-up connection is initiated by the intermediary server.

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1 30. A personal computer based program for executing on a user's personal  
2 computer, for enabling a user to create, manage and trade a portfolio of  
3 assets/liabilities and for interfacing with a system for managing a plurality of such  
4 users via a first communication link over which the user transmits to the system  
5 trading data regarding trades of at least one asset/liability that the user desires to  
6 make, said program comprising:

7 a) a graphical user interface prompting the user for user identification  
8 information, and user preference data;  
9 b) an asset allocation modeling process creating a percentage allocation of  
10 assets for the user based on the user preference data, wherein the graphical user

11 interface displays via the computer display a plurality of assets/liabilities among  
12 which the user can select to create a user portfolio commensurate with the  
13 percentage allocation of assets;  
14 c) a risk and differential return calculation process calculating a risk and a  
15 differential return of the entire user portfolio relative to a standard industry  
16 measurement, and providing the relative risk and differential return to the graphical  
17 user interface, which displays the relative risk and differential return to the user;  
18 d) a portfolio editor process enabling the user to adjust the user portfolio;  
19 and  
20 e) a communication process communicating said user identification  
21 information along with any trades of assets/liabilities to be executed to create or  
22 modify a user's portfolio to ensure a user's actual portfolio matches a user's desired  
23 portfolio to the system as said trading data via the first communication link.

1 31. The personal computer based program according to claim 30, wherein  
2 the graphical user interface displays the relative risk and differential return as a  
3 color code.

1 32. The personal computer based program according to claim 30, wherein  
2 the graphical user interface displays the relative risk and differential return as a  
3 numerical indicator.

1 33. The personal computer based program according to claim 30, wherein  
2 the graphical user interface displays the relative risk and differential return as an  
3 arrow on a dial.

1 34. The personal computer based program according to claim 30, wherein  
2 the graphical user interface displays the relative risk and differential return as an  
3 arrow on a range of numerical values.

1 35. The personal computer based program according to claim 30, further  
2 comprising a configuration control process that provides a version number of the

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3 program to the system in response to a request from the system, wherein the system  
4 downloads an updated version of the user program upon detection of an out of date  
5 version.

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36. A method for creating and managing a portfolio of assets or liabilities by  
performing a plurality of transactions, comprising the steps of:  
3 a) obtaining a plurality of user preferences for a plurality of portfolio  
4 characteristics of a user;  
5 b) employing the plurality of portfolio characteristics to describe and select a  
6 plurality of assets or liabilities to be transacted in a plurality of transactions by a  
7 user; and  
8 c) aggregating the plurality of transactions of a single user with a plurality of  
9 transactions of a plurality of other users over an applicable characteristic of the  
10 plurality of assets or liabilities.

1 37. The method according to claim 36, wherein the plurality of transactions  
2 are aggregated over a time period.

1 38. The method according to claim 37, wherein the time period includes  
2 every three hours.

1 39. The method according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of transactions  
2 are aggregated once per day at a time certain.

1 40. The method according to claim 37; wherein the plurality of transactions  
2 are aggregated a plurality of times per day at a plurality of predetermined times.

1 41. The method according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of transactions  
2 are aggregated over an amount of transactions.

1 42. The method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of  
2 executing the plurality of transactions as aggregated.

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1           43. The method according to claim 42, further comprising the steps of  
2    netting the plurality of transactions against the plurality of transactions of the  
3    plurality of other users after aggregating the plurality of transactions, and then  
4    executing any remaining transactions after netting.

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2           44. An apparatus for enabling a plurality of users to make periodic  
investments in a portfolio of securities comprising:  
3           a) a processor receiving data from each of the plurality of users regarding  
4    amounts of money to be invested in each user's portfolio, and accessing an  
5    electronic payment system upon receiving instructions from a user to purchase  
6    securities to obtain payment for the required purchases; and  
7           b) a storage unit storing each user's portfolio.

1           45. The apparatus according to claim 44, further comprising a third party  
2    trading system interface device aggregating all users' trades and sending the  
3    aggregated trades as a single trade in each security to a third party trading system.

1           46. The apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the third party trading  
2    system interface device nets the buy orders against the sell orders before sending the  
3    aggregated trades to the third party trading system.

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2           47. A method for enabling a plurality of users to make periodic investments  
in a portfolio of securities comprising the steps of:  
3           a) receiving data from each of the plurality of users regarding amounts of  
4    money to be invested in each user's portfolio;  
5           b) accessing an electronic payment system upon receiving instructions from  
6    a user to purchase securities to obtain payment for the required purchases; and  
7           c) storing each user's portfolio in a central database.

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- 1 48. The method according to claim 47, further comprising the steps
- 2 aggregating all users' trades and sending the aggregated trades as a single trade in
- 3 each security to a third party trading system.

- 1 49. The method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of netting
- 2 the buy orders against the sell orders before sending the aggregated trades to the
- 3 third party trading system.

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